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Campbell eyes retirement

Police chief to hang up his hat Jan. 3

By Jennifer Wroblewski
Staff Writer

AGAWAM — With nearly 42 years as a law enforcement officer under his duty belt, Agawam Police Chief Robert Campbell announced last week that he is set to retire in eight weeks.

Campbell, a lifelong Agawam resident who started his career on APD as a patrolman March 4, 1973, at just 21 years old, has been at the helm of operations there for over 19 years.

"I'm 62 years old [and] I have seven grandchildren, can you think of a better reason to retire?" Campbell asked, adding that his retirement is effective Jan. 3, just two months shy of his 41st year with the department.

"It's a very difficult decision," Campbell said. "It's probably one of the hardest decisions I've had to make in my life."

> "I'm 62 years old [and] I have seven grandchildren, can you think of a better reason to retire?"
>
> Chief Robert Campbell
> Agawam Police Department

Part of his decision to retire stemmed from the fact that in just over two years, it will be mandatory that he does so anyway.

"My wife and I talked about it … At some point you have to make that decision, so I made it," he said.

With four decades on the force, Campbell has seen a good number of changes take place at the department, he said, including an upgrade of the communication equipment used by the officers and dispatchers.

Please see CAMPBELL, page 3

'ROCKING' IT IN CHESTERFIELD

Turley Publications courtesy photo

Agawam Boy Scout Troop 77 members are pictured at a recent camping trip at the Chesterfield Scout Reservation. From left - Robert Schlosser, Tony Tessicini, Kevin Thompson, Mike Johnson, Ricky Dialessi and Geoffrey Klafeta.

Three decades of teaching, many cherished memories

By Mike Lydick
Turley Publications Correspondent

The old school in the center of Feeding Hills where Eloise Clark first taught in Agawam is long gone. But Clark is still going strong.

Now 92, Clark looks and acts decades younger. She can recall – with great clarity – names and details about many of her former students – nearly 1,000 in four different Agawam elementary schools between 1945 and 1975.

She beamed brightly and talked warmly about her students and about teaching while reminiscing recently at her kitchen table in her Feeding Hills home. Clark has lived there for nearly 60 years and now shares it with her younger son. Memorabilia and photos spanning her three decades of teaching are spread out on the table.

A humble woman, Clark loved teaching. "I'm very proud to have been a teacher, but there have been many other wonderful teachers, too. I don't think I did anything really special."

Turley Publications photo by Mike Lydick

Eloise Clark points to her 1939 high school graduation picture in her year book from Spaulding High School in in Barre, Vt. Clark, now 92, began teaching in Agawam in 1945. She retired in 1975.

Where it all began

A native of Vermont, Clark decided to become a teacher while in high school. She graduated in 1939 from Spaulding High School in Barre. This past July, Clark – one of only 35 surviving students from a class of 156 – was one of only eight alumni to attend her class reunion.

Clark – then Eloise Magoon -- grew up in nearby Williamstown, Vt. She transferred to Spaulding in her senior year after being hired for the summer as a live-in housekeeper for a Barre family.

"I was paid $3 a week until school started. They stopped paying me, but paid my tuition at Spaulding so I could continue working for them," recalled Clark. After graduation, Clark took a three-year teacher preparation program at a small college in Johnson, Vt.

Clark's first school was a one-room Vermont country schoolhouse. She taught 26 students in grades one through eight in 1942-1943. "Back then you could teach in Vermont without a college degree," said Clark.

Move puts teaching on hold

Clark moved to Feeding Hills in 1943. There was a teacher shortage in Agawam because of the war, but Clark couldn't teach in Massachusetts since she didn't have her degree.

Unable to afford college, Clark worked at Package Machine and at the Springfield Armory. In early 1945, she went back to college for seven months to earn her degree, and was then hired in Agawam.

Please see ELOISE, page 5

DOR announces 52 percent CPA match

Reflects increase over last year

By Jennifer Wroblewski
Staff Writer

AGAWAM — In a move that surprised even local planning officials, the Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR) released the Community Preservation Trust Fund distribution amounts for each CPA municipality, and will award a 52.23 percent match to all CPA communities during round one of distribution this year.

The figure – which equals about $230,000 for Agawam – reflects a dramatic increase over last year's 26.83 percent match and the expected 22 percent match this year, said Jennifer Bonfiglio, clerk for the Agawam Community Preservation Association.

The increase is due largely to the additional $25 million that was deposited in the CPA trust fund from the state's fiscal year 2013 budget surplus.

The Community Preservation Act is a state law that allows municipalities to place a surcharge of up to 3 percent on homeowners' property taxes. The state then matches a percentage of the funds raised, and the town can use the money for preservation of open space, restoration of historic buildings, and affordable homes on the recommendation of the local Community Preservation Committee.

Please see DOR, page 3

A letter from our publisher

Dear Reader:

Due to recent changes in postal regulation, it has come to our attention at Turley Publications Inc. that many of our subscribers are experiencing a delay in the weekly delivery of *Agawam Advertiser News.* We apologize for the inconvenience, but we would like our readers to know that we are working closely with the postal service in order to facilitate a more timely delivery of the paper in the future.

We wish to thank our loyal advertisers and subscribers for their understanding in this matter as we work to better serve them.

Sincerely,

Douglas L. Turley
Vice President of Publishing

Agawam Advertiser News Obituary Policy

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.
One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.
The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing $50, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.
Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Correction

Due to a reporting error, the address for Feeding Hills Public Market was incorrectly stated in a story that appeared in the Nov. 14 edition. The correct address is 634 Springfield St. We apologize for any confusion.

Regular School Committee meeting agenda

Roberta G. Doering School
68 Main St.
Tuesday, Nov. 26 – 7 p.m.

1. Call to order
2. Moment of silence
3. Roll call of attendance
4. Regular meeting – 7 p.m.
5. Citizen's Speak Time:
6. Highlights on education:
a. AHS Red, White, and Blue Day video presentation
7. Superintendent's Notes:
8. Student Advisory Committee representative update
9. Unfinished business: None
10. Business meeting:
a. Routine matters
1) Approval of minutes
2) Calendar/Correspondence
b. Warrants/Transfers
c. Reports:
1) Scheduled reports:
• Personnel update (paper report)
• Behavior Health Network update – Michael Asinas
• Financial update – R. Clickstein
2). Subcommittee Updates
11. New business: None
a. SCR-13-31, Approval of Music Speaks use of AJHS auditorium for recital on Saturday, Dec. 7, 2013
12. Any other items that may legally come before the committee
13. Adjournment

Board of Appeals openings

AGAWAM – The Zoning Board of Appeals has announced that there is an opening effective Jan. 1 for one regular position and one alternate position. Interested parties should contact Barbara Bard in the city council office at 726-9716 or bbard@agawam.ma.us as soon as possible.

WHERE IS IT?

Each week *Agawam Advertiser News* will feature a photo of a local building, item, sign, place or landmark and ask readers to pick their brains to figure out where it is or even what it is. Check here each week to test your knowledge of the area where we live and work. The photo will be from either Agawam or Feeding Hills, but we'll always give you a hint or two.

The answer to this week's "Where is it?" will run in next week's edition along with the name of the first person to submit a correct answer and a new trivia photo for you to consider.

E-mail answers or future Where Is It? suggestions to editor Jennifer Wroblewski at jwroblewski@turley.com.

Turley Publications staff photo by Jennifer Wroblewski

This iconic symbol keeps watch over one Agawam neighborhood. Tell us, do you know where it is?

Last week's photo: That dog statue can be found at Oak Ridge Country Club.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS PAPER

Thanksgiving Day Dinner in its 32nd year

WEST SPRINGFIELD - The West Springfield Parish Association will sponsor the 32nd Annual Phil Coburn Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner, Thursday, Nov. 28 from noon to 2 p.m.

The event will be held at St. Thomas the Apostle Church located on Westfield Street in West Springfield, across from Toomey-O'Brien Funeral Home.

This free meal is open to all. Everyone in attendance will receive a meal, a fruit basket and an African violet.

Volunteers are needed for rides and home deliveries. To volunteer, call Mike or Deb at 391-0407. For a ride or a home delivery, call the West Springfield Senior Center at 821-0605. To volunteer to work the day before or on Thanksgiving, call Barbara at 733-8682.

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Campbell eyes retirement

CAMPBELL, from page 1

In order to make some of those changes during his tenure as chief, Campbell brought in $2.5 million in outside funding for the department.

"That's a lot of money for a department of our size," he said. The funding – a combination of state and federal grants – allowed Campbell to upgrade the department's radio communication and computer systems for both officers and dispatchers. The money also offered Campbell the ability to provide more training and educational opportunities for police officers.

Currently, the department is staffed by 40 patrolmen, seven sergeants, three lieutenants, the chief, six dispatchers, two civilian clerks and animal control.

Campbell credits his ability to secure funding for the department to the fact that he is very active with the chief's association. He is past president of the Western Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association as well as the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association. And one year ago, he was president of the New England Chiefs of Police Association.

"I got to meet a lot of people and it's opened doors for me to get things for the department," he said. "It never hurt to be an executive on a board of chief's association."

In 2002, for example, Campbell was president of the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association when he greeted President George W. Bush when he landed at Logan Airport in Boston. He was invited by Gov. Mitt. Romney to meet the president coming off Air Force One and then was able to ride in the presidential motorcade to hear Bush give a speech.

But his career is not without its hangups. In 1992, Campbell was a police captain and head of the department's detective bureau when 24-year-old Lisa Ziegert was reported missing from the Walnut Street Extension card shop where she worked. Her body was found four days later and a report by the medical examiner indicated she had been sexually assaulted, he told *Agawam Advertiser News* at that time. Though the department worked around the clock in the weeks and months after her murder, her killer has never been found, something that bothers Campbell to this day.

No stranger to the criticisms that accompany his position, Campbell said if he could offer one piece of advice to his successor, it would be to "do what you think is right.

"In this job, you have a lot of tugs," he said. "There are a lot of people who think they know your job better than you. No matter what you do, you're going to get criticized; it's part of the game. Make decisions based on what you think is right."

At presstime, Campbell's successor was not named. He referred inquiries into the selection of a new chief to the office of Mayor Richard A. Cohen.

Cohen released a statement Nov. 15 that read, in part, "Chief Campbell's commitment and enthusiasm will be greatly missed and has been appreciated through the many years... On behalf of the town of Agawam, we wish to thank you for your service and we send our best wishes to you in your family in your retirement."

Contacted Monday, Nov. 18, Cohen said he hoped to post the position sometime this week.

"The process will be that we will post the position for 20 days. We will then receive the applications and required documents, which will be reviewed. There will be interviews and somebody will be selected," Cohen said. "At this point my goal is to post it in house. I am a strong believer that we should give opportunity to those who have been committed to our community like we did with our superintendent of schools. That has been a very positive situation."

Campbell was appointed chief in November 1994 to replace outgoing Chief Stanley J. Chmielewski.

Turley Publications file photo

Agawam Police Chief Robert Campbell will retire from the department Jan. 3 after serving over 40 years on the department.

DOR announces 52 percent CPA match

DOR, from page 1

The town of Agawam voted in November 2001 to adopt CPA and assess a 1 percent surcharge on real estate taxes. The town receives a match for funds collected for eligible projects and while the match was 100 percent when first adopted, it has hovered at around 25 percent in recent years.

"This year, we estimated a 22 percent match. Last year, it was 26 percent. Now they're going to be giving us 52 percent," she said.

"I'm very happy with it," said Agawam Community Preservation Committee Chairman Henry Kozloski. "It's something the coalition has been working on for a long time."

According to the town's CPA website (www.agawamcpa.com) the Community Preservation Act provides a funding source which can be used to address three core community concerns: acquisition and preservation of open space, creation and support of affordable housing, and acquisition and preservation of historic buildings and landscapes.

A minimum of 10 percent of the annual revenues of the fund must be used for each of the three core community concerns, and up to 5 percent may be used for administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee. The remaining funds can be allocated for any combination of the allowed uses, or for land for recreational use, which gives the community the opportunity to determine its priorities, plan for its future, and have the funds to make those plans happen.

While property taxes traditionally fund the day-to-day operating needs of safety, health, schools, roads, maintenance, and more, until the CPA, there was no steady funding source for preserving and improving a community's quality of life and character.

Through the years, CPA has funded a number of projects within the borders of Agawam. Most recently, the Agawam City Council approved the use of $40,000 CPA funds to be used in the creation of a dog park at Shea Field. Other notable projects include the 2011 School Street Barn application to allow the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission to prepare a National Register nomination, CPA grant application, a request for proposals and a Massachusetts Historical Commission Preservation Projects Fund Grant application for the School Street Barn; the 2008 Phelps School Playground for an accessible playground facility at the elementary school; the 2008 preservation of historical birth, marriage and death records at the Agawam town clerk's office, and more.

Last year, an amendment to the Community Preservation Act (CPA) brought forth new rules that would allow CPA funds to be utilized on existing park facilities. As a result, the CPC will likely work with the school department to rehabilitate the existing track and athletic facilities at the high school.

Currently, the CPC is in the process of updating its Community Preservation Plan, based on input from the local community.

One project targeted for the upcoming year includes an "open classroom" at Agawam High School, using land that was purchased for an outdoor ecology classroom, said Kozloski.

Scholarship and fellowship funds available

The Horace Smith Fund, now in its 115th year, has scholarship and fellowship money available for graduates of Hampden County public and private high schools. Scholarships awards of $10,000 are distributed as $2,500 annually and renewable each year until graduation. Fellowship awards of $12,000 are distributed as $4,000 annually and renewable for two additional years. Students must maintain at least a B average in college.

Recipients are selected on a variety of criteria, including their SAT and MCAS test scores, class rank, extra-curricular activities, financial need, recommendations and a personal written account of why the student feels deserving of financial assistance. Fellowship applicants must also submit their GRE scores. All recipients must be full-time students and residents of Hampden County.

Last year, $276,000 was awarded to 27 individuals. Scholarships were given to 21 graduating seniors from 11 Hampden County high schools. Three scholarships were also awarded to college students to assist them in completing their education. Three fellowships were given to college graduates, who had graduated from Hampden County high schools.

The Horace Smith Fund was established in 1899 by the successful and generous philanthropist named Horace Smith, co-founder of Smith & Wesson, located in Springfield. The scholarships and fellowships are named for Walter S. Barr, a West Springfield businessman, whose widow left the bulk of the family estate to The Horace Smith Fund in 1950.

Completed scholarship applications must be received either electronically or be mailed to The Horace Smith Fund, 1441 Main St., Springfield, no later than Dec. 20. Completed fellowship applications must be filed by Feb. 1. Applications are available at local high school guidance offices, on-line at www.HoraceSmithFund.org or by calling (413) 739-4222.

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Opinion

We need stricter penalties for animal abusers

While Massachusetts has some of the strictest animal cruelty laws in the country, we could do better in creating stricter penalties in cases involving animal torture and mutilation –that's what House Bill 3692 and Senate Bill 807 aim to do.

The House bill came in response to the "Puppy Doe" case, which involved a Pit Bull pup whose torture over several months had been so savage, the only merciful response was to euthanize the poor animal. Arrested in the case was Radoslaw Czerkawski, 32, of New Braintree, Conn. Arraigned in Quincy District Court, he is facing 11 counts of animal cruelty.

The last time animal cruelty laws in Massachusetts were updated was in November 2004, when conviction went from a misdemeanor to a felony that could result in up to five years in state prison or two and a half years in jail, and/or a fine of up to $2,500.

If approved into law, House Bill 3692 will increase the maximum sentence from five years to 10 years. The maximum fine increases as well, from $2,500 to $25,000.

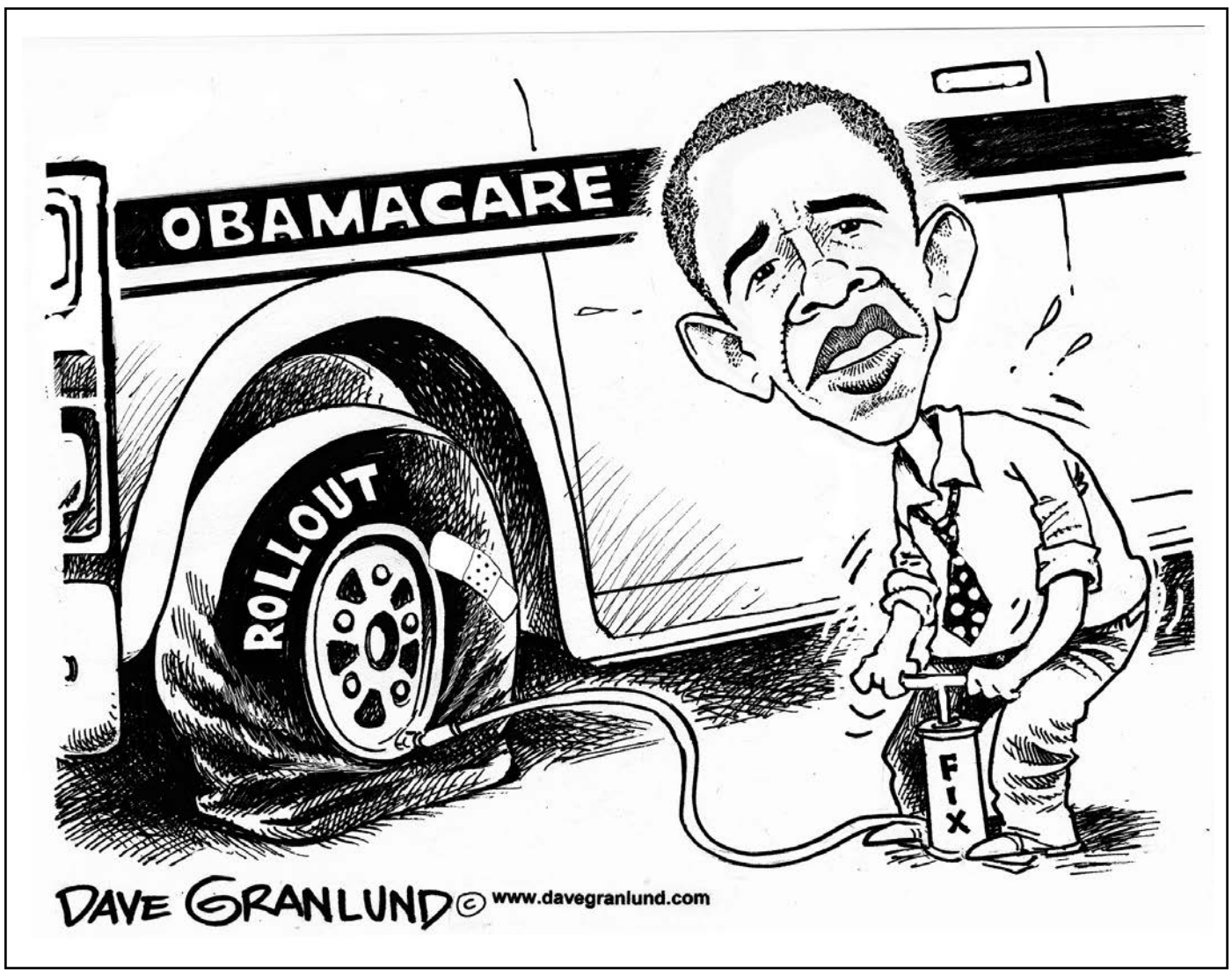
We're not talking about any gray area here. The stiffer penalties being proposed are reserved for the most extreme and horrific cases of animal cruelty. "Whoever tortures, torments, cruelly beats, mutilates or kills an animal, or causes or procures an animal to be tortured, tormented, cruelly beaten, mutilated or killed, or knowingly and willfully authorizes or permits it to be subjected to unnecessary torture shall be punished," the proposed law reads.

The proposed bill goes on to require that the animal abuser undergo a psychiatric, psychological or mental health evaluation and appropriate care or treatment – to be paid for by the abuser.

Senate Bill 807, if approved into law, will establish the "Massachusetts Animal Abuse Registry," which will list the names of all who are convicted of an animal abuse crime. The registry will include the offender's name, residential address, date and description of the offender's crime and a photograph of the offender. The offender will remain in the registry for five years following the date of judgment or release from incarceration and extended for five years for each conviction that may occur after the initial registration. The offender will be required to pay $50 to register. Failure to register will result in six months to two and a half years in prison or a fine of not more than $1,000 or both. A second offense will result in not more than two years in prison or a fine of not more than $5,000 or both.

A registry like this can be used by shelters, pet stores and animal breeders to protect animals and keep them from being adopted by offenders. Failure to comply will result in of not less than $1,000 or imprisonment of not more than one year for the first offense and more for subsequent offenses.

Mahatma Gandhi said, "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated," and it is great moral progress for the Commonwealth to do whatever we can to protect animals from these horrific criminals. House Bill 3692 and Senate Bill 807 are a means to that end.



Call to the cause: Bullies are delusional

GUEST COLUMN

KIRK SMITH
GUEST COLUMNIST

Fear is the intellectual and emotional anticipation of harm. Courage isn't the absence of fear, but refusing to be absent due to fear; courage helps us take control over our fears. Bullies feed on the fear of their victims. Bullies are delusional, as they believe they have control over the weak and disadvantaged. They think that somehow they're better than others and can determine their fate, futures and peace of mind. They think they're invincible and above correction and reproach. They think this "bullying stuff" will go on forever, and will ultimately make them more powerful.

Bullies are usually some of the saddest, most insecure people among us, as they are in need of the sadness, fear and failure of others to validate themselves.

I can remember being chased home from elementary school at least three days out of the week and beaten up and threatened by the school bullies. I was born two-months premature and, as a result, my physical development was slow. My teeth were brown and my gums were weak. My skin was extremely sensitive, and bruised easily. My mouth would bleed with the lightest tap and I could easily grow welts with slightest push. I had no father to speak of and my mom worked two jobs so she was rarely home during after-school hours. The teachers really didn't care, they were fearful themselves and just wanted the school day to end. My third-grade teacher actually struck me in the mouth with my own hand in front of the entire class to prove a point. As my mouth bled, I jumped up and ran out of the classroom in tears; no one followed to check on me. After school, I would cry and scream as loud as I could while running through the streets and wooded areas trying to make it home. I was terrified that these kids would kill me and no one would know or even care. By the time I was eight or nine years old I hated myself, my life and even my own reflection.

After a few years, by the grace of God, I gained enough courage to stop running. I braced myself intellectually and emotionally for harm, because at that point I felt that those bullies could do no more harm. Gradually the bullying stopped, and I began to realize that I had value; that I meant something to the world. God cared about me; this poor, sensitive, rotten tooth, fatherless kid who repeated the third grade, really? As the years passed I discovered that I was more powerful than any bully. Most of those bullies ended up dropping out of school and going to prison. Some are now living in poverty with no education or marketable skill. Because they were delusional, they didn't realize that they were chasing me from their failure to my success. I guess they recognized that I wasn't "cool enough" to drop out of school and become a criminal and dependent on a judge to determine my future or the government to determine my assistance.

There are bullies in the workplace, at home, at school, and even on the road, but we don't have to allow them to control us. If you are being bullied or know of someone who is being victimized, be courageous enough to sound the alarm by letting somebody know, no matter the fear or threat level. If you're a bully, stop now and seek help, because you're headed down a path to a place you don't want to be. Please join me and millions of others and answer the call by intellectually and emotionally anticipating safety, equality, peace and hope for all.

Kirk Smith is the president and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Springfield.

Letters to the Editor must include a name, address, and daytime telephone number for author verification purposes. We do not publish anonymous letters. All letters are subject to editing for content and space. The deadline is Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Please send letters to *Agawam Advertiser News*, Letters to the Editor, Attn: Teri Machia, 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030 or e-mail aan@turley.com.

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Three decades of teaching, many cherished memories

ELOISE, from page 1

"My first year, I taught fourth and fifth grade upstairs in the old Feeding Hills Center School," recalled Clark. (It was replaced in 1949 by the Granger Elementary School.) In 1946, she taught fourth and fifth grade at what is now Phelps Elementary School.

Married in 1948, the first of Clark's two sons was born a year later. "There was no maternity leave at that time, so I went back to teaching when he was just seven weeks old," she explained.

Returning to teach first grade at the Springfield Street School (later renamed Peirce Elementary School and now the Agawam Police Station), Clark remained there until 1972. Reassigned to Robinson Park Elementary School, it was Clark's last school.

"It was hard to retire. I enjoyed teaching so much – it was a lot of fun," she said. Clark added that "the joy of being in the classroom with children" was why she never became an administrator. "I wanted to be reading with children rather than be a principal. Teaching reading was my favorite thing to do."

Inspiring students, teachers

Clark also helped to launch the careers of more than a dozen college students preparing to become teachers. She mentored them, guided them, and inspired them.

"Eloise was the best – we learned a lot from her," recalled Jacqueline "Jackie" Toussaint. They met in 1969 when Toussaint was a student teacher in Clark's classroom. "We just connected," said Toussaint.

In 1970, Toussaint began substitute teaching in Agawam. She was assigned to teach first grade in the classroom next to Clark's at Peirce. They became colleagues, then best friends.

"Eloise's enthusiasm and her love of children and teaching originally bonded us," recalled Toussaint, who retired in 2012. "She was extremely sensitive to her students' needs. Eloise taught me how to inspire and nurture 6-year olds."

Toussaint remembers Clark's late husband Harold, also an Agawam teacher, making wooden letters and electronic games for his wife's classroom.

"She was a teacher before her time," added Toussaint.

Eloise Clark taught first grade at Peirce Elementary School in Feeding Hills from 1946 until 1972. This is a photo of Clark with her first grade students in 1969. The school is now the Agawam Police Station.

She describes Clark as an "imaginative, creative, warm, and caring" teacher with a great sense of humor. "Eloise is one of the best teachers I've ever known. She was a true 'gift' to her students."

Walter K. Fogg agrees. The 69-year-old Westfield resident was a student of Clark's in 1951-1952 – the one year she taught second grade at Peirce. "She was the most loving, caring teacher you could possibly imagine. Nothing any of us had to say was unimportant to her. She made every student feel like they were the 'teacher's pet,'" said Fogg.

He reconnected with Clark several years ago after learning she was still living in Feeding Hills. Fogg now stays in touch with Clark regularly. "She treated her students as if they were her own children. Eloise is truly a rare and wonderful person."

Clark is a bit more modest: "I just tried to be the kind of teacher I'd like to have as a student."

Turley Publications courtesy photos

Eloise Clark poses with her first class of students – 26 in grades one through eight – at a one-room country schoolhouse in Braintree, Vt., in 1942.

At a reunion of her 1939 high school graduating class, Eloise Clark (left) and two of her classmates look at their yearbook from Spaulding High School in Barre, Vt.

Letter to the Editor

The rest of the story

To the editor:

This is a rebuttal letter for the letter to the editor regarding Agawam Youth Football that appeared in the *Agawam Advertiser News* on Oct. 31. As Paul Harvey used to say, "Now here is the rest of the story."

What Barbara Sabol ("Winning isn't everything in youth football") failed to recognize is that the players that did not play on Sunday were not full-time senior varsity players. Because of numbers (we try to carry equal numbers on the varsity and JV squads), the varsity carries several eighth-graders that are considered JV players. The eighth-grade JV players practice all week with the varsity or the JV team. They are then offered the opportunity to play in the JV games on Saturday, which they usually start on both sides of the ball. This year the JV team played nine games. The eighth-grade JV players also attended the varsity games playing in most of them. So, in reality, they had the opportunity to play in as many as 17 games.

Our program has two teams at the Pee Wee, Junior and Senior levels so that every child gets an opportunity to play, regardless of skill level. At the senior varsity level, we are trying to prepare those kids that will be playing at the next level. As coaches, we do not determine which child will be starting and playing, they do. Those that put forth the effort and at the same time have the skill level and come to practice every day will play more.

Barbara asks if we, as coaches, are doing this just to win. The answer to that question is no. Had we been here just to win we would have retired several years ago based on wins and losses. At the senior varsity level we do try to win football games. We owe it to the kids who practice three and four days a week for three months and look forward to a possible run at a championship in their final year. Ask any young man who has been in the program for a couple of years and suffered through a losing season if they had more fun winning most of our games or losing. We, as coaches and players, miss on average about 45 family dinners a year. We are not out here to lose every game.

Believe it or not, we are not out here for the mothers, fathers, grandparents or siblings. We are here for the kids that show up to practice every day. Every child in the program plays every week. Which team they play on and how much they play is up to them.

Coach Tom Mirolli
Agawam Youth football

Hearing Test Set for Senior Citizens

Announcement-
Free electronic hearing tests will be given from Monday-Friday 9am – 5pm at Avada Hearing Care Centers at 9 locations in Western Mass. Call to find the location nearest to you. The test has been arranged for anyone who suspects they are not hearing clearly. People who usually say they can hear but have trouble with understanding words are encouraged to come in for the tests. The testing includes newly-developed tests that determine your ability to hear speech in noisy environments. Everyone, especially those over 55 who have trouble hearing words clearly, should have a test annually. Demonstrations of the latest devices to improve clarity of speech will be available, on the spot, after the tests. You can HEAR for yourself if the latest methods of correction will help you understand words better.
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Business

ASBAC to host employment law workshop

The Agawam Small Business Assistance Center will hold a free Employment Law 101 workshop Tuesday, Dec. 3 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Agawam Senior Center, located at 954 Main St. Free parking is available.

The focus of the workshop will be the new and existing federal and state law regarding the workplace. Topics will include discrimination, worker discipline, and relevant topics such as social media and medical marijuana, sick leave and maternity leave. The workshop will also deal with the hazards of failing to take action when legally required to do so.

This free workshop will be presented by Kimberly Klimczuk and John Gannon, both attorneys with Skoler, Abbott & Presser, P.C., that have extensive experience in employment law, workers' compensation claims, and litigation avoidance strategies.

Admission is free, but seating is limited, so advanced reservations are necessary. Register online at www.asbac.net or by calling (413) 786-0172.

The Agawam Small Business Assistance Center is a non- profit organization. Workshops and events are made possible by the ASBAC sponsors, including Berkshire Bank Charitable Foundation, Columbia Gas of Massachusetts, Easthampton Savings Bank, Hampden Savings Bank, TD Savings Bank, United Bank, Western Massachusetts Electric Company, and the West of the River Chamber of Commerce.

Barn homes needed for cats

WESTFIELD - Westfield Homeless Cat Project is looking for barn homes for outdoor cats. These cats are spayed/neutered and up-to-date on vaccinations. Call Kathy at (413) 388-0020 or email catlady1951@comcast.net.

Legal Notices

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD13P2140PM
In the matter of:
Hermine M Petruski
Of: Agawam, MA
RESPONDENT
(Person to be Protected/ Minor)
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATOR OR OTHER PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 & 5-405

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Sheryl Fappiano** of Florence, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Hermine M Petruski** is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that some suitable person be appointed as Conservator to serve With Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of 12/13/2013. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

Witness, Hon. **Anne M Geoffrion**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 08, 2013
Suzanne T Seguin
Register of Probate
11/21/13

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD13P2107EA
Estate of:
Pauline Marjorie Exford Brown
Also known as:
Pauline M Brown,
Pauline M Exford,
Pauline Marjorie Brown,
Pauline M Beck
Date of Death: 09/09/2013
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition has been filed by: **Dorrin G Exford** of Shelburne Falls MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order of testacy and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

And also requesting that: **Dorrin G Exford** of Shelburne Falls MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve on the bond.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on 12/11/2013.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

The estate is being administered under formal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but recipients are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Anne M Geoffrion,** First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 12, 2013
Suzanne T Seguin
Register of Probate
11/21/13

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD13P1946EA
Estate of:
Andrew Daniel Poggi, Jr.
Date of Death: 06/09/2013
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition has been filed by: **Rita C Poggi** of Agawam MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order of testacy and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

And also requesting that: **Rita C Poggi** of Agawam MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on 12/04/2013.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

The estate is being administered under formal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but recipients are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Anne M Geoffrion**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 06, 2013
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
11/21/13

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD11P1342PM
In the interests of:
Hermine M Petruski
Of: Holyoke, MA
RESPONDENT
Incapacitated Person/ Protected Person
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR REMOVAL OF A CONSERVATOR OF AN INCAPACITATED PERSON

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by: **Sheryl Fappiano** of Florence, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court: Remove the Conservator of the Respondent

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the Guardian and/ or Conservator should be allowed to resign; or should be removed for good cause; or that the Guardianship and/ or Conservatorship is no longer necessary and therefore should be terminated. The original petition is on file with the court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of 12/13/2013. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

Witness, Hon. **Anne M Geoffrion**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 08, 2013
Suzanne T Seguin
Register of Probate
11/21/13

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

Town of Agawam

Collector's Office
36 Main Street, Agawam, Massachusetts 01001-1837
Tel. 413-786-0400 ext. 8218 • Fax: 413-726-2826

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF AGAWAM
OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR OF TAXES
NOTICE OF TAX TAKING
TO THE OWNERS OF THE HERINAFTER DESCRIBED LAND AND TO ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT on Monday, December 2, 2013 at 10:00 o'clock A.M., at the Tax Collector's Office, Agawam City Hall, pursuant to the provisions of the general Laws, Chapter 60, Section 53, and by virtue of the authority vested in me as Collector of Taxes, IT IS MY INTENTION TO TAKE FOR THE City of Agawam the following parcels of land for non-payment of the taxes due thereon, with interest and all incidental expenses and costs to the date of taking, unless the same shall have been paid before that date.

To Avoid Tax Taking Please Call: 786-0400
for information on total amounts due including interest and expenses
Ext. 8218 Collector's Office
Ext. 8712 Laurel Placzek, Collector-Treasurer
Ext. 8710 AnnMarie Hartmann, Assistant Collector

GREANY ROBERT H L/T, FRANI CATHERINE J
LAND & BUILDING located at 79 COOLEY ST in AGAWAM, containing .126 ACRES shown on Assessor's Map I17050013, recorded at HAMPDEN COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS - Book/Page 18402-372. Tax for FY-2012 $56.13, FY-2013 2,279.89.

CDM PROPERTIES LLC
LAND & BUILDING located at 48 FLORIDA DR in AGAWAM, containing .240 ACRES shown on Assessor's Map L07030010, recorded at HAMPDEN COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS – Book/Page 18353-439. Tax for FY – 2013 $2,066.45.

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HOW TO SUBMIT LEGAL NOTICES

All legal notices to be published in the *Agawam Advertiser News* should be sent directly to klanier@turley.com. Karen Lanier processes all legals for this newspaper and can answer all of your questions regarding these notices. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Karen directly at 413-283-8393 x271.

Turley Publications, Inc. publishes 15 weekly newspapers throughout Western Massachusetts. Visit www.turley.com for more information.

GRAND OPENING

Turley Publications courtesy photo

"It Is What It Is...Vintage," located at 430 Main St., Agawam, held a grand opening Friday, Nov. 8, with Mayor Richard A. Cohen in attendance.

Frustration

FAITH MATTERS

REV. RICHARD ADAMS, PASTOR
BETHANY ASSEMBLY OF GOD

There is an interesting scripture found in the writings of Paul the Apostle. In Romans 8:20, the Scriptures declare, "For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it to hope."

The Creator, God Almighty, subjected His creation to either frustration or hope. And every society becomes subject to frustration the moment it ceases to cleave solely to God's revelation. Faith understands that creation was formed by God. Take a moment and read Hebrews 11:1-3 and John 1:1-3.

When we have faith and accept God's ways we experience hope, but when we reject God's ways it will always lead to frustration. America's economic, political, moral, social and relational frustrations will only escalate until we return to the values we were founded upon - "In God We Trust." Our hope is based on our faith in the precious blood of Christ Jesus, who died for our sins.

Until we return to faith in God's ways, we will continue to experience vanity, arrogance, and self-deception. God seems to be withholding leadership abilities from our leaders. They seem to be devoid of wisdom, and afraid to humble themselves, seek God's ways and turn from their wicked ways, so that our land could be healed.

Remember Moses asked God to teach him God's ways. Solomon asked God for wisdom. Jesus said in Matthew 6:33, "Seek first the Kingdom of God and all these things will be added unto you." As a nation we will suffer frustration unless we return to faith.

Nolan elected Realtor Association president

SPRINGFIELD – Patrick S. Nolan, of Agawam, has been elected president of the 1,650-member Realtor Association of Pioneer Valley. The election took place at the Association's annual membership meeting held earlier this month at the Delaney House in Holyoke. Nolan is broker-owner of Century 21 A-1 Nolan in West Springfield, and Hometown Associates with offices in Chicopee, Holyoke, Westfield and East Longmeadow.

As president, Nolan will oversee the association's activities and operations, including meetings of the board of directors, and act as a liaison to the association's various committees. He is the official spokesperson of the association on issues related to the real estate industry and the local housing market.

Among board of directors elected was Susan Drumm, of Agawam.

Upcoming blood drives

The American Red Cross will hold blood drives at the following locations:

Monday, Nov. 25, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library;

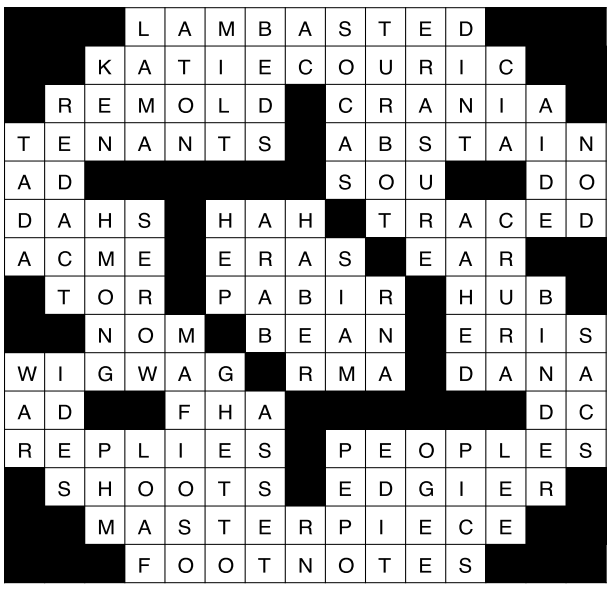
Friday, Nov. 29, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Agawam Fire Department, 800 Main St., Agawam.

All eligible and new blood donors are encouraged to give blood. Blood donors are needed every day to ensure an adequate blood supply for patients in need.

To make an appointment, call (800) 733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org.

***

Fitness First Health & Fitness Center, 60 North Westfield St., Feeding Hills, will host a blood drive sponsored by Mercy Medical Center, Wednesday, Dec. 4 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. A driver's license with photo or state identification with photo is required to donate blood. All donors should eat at least two to three hours prior to donating, weigh at least 110 pounds and must be 18 years or older. To make an appointment, call (413) 786-1460.



Al Stepanik Greenhouses & Garden Center
512 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills, MA
Opening November 27th
7 Days A Week
Christmas Trees
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HOUSING REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE
Town of Agawam

The Town of Agawam recently received grant funding to assist qualified low and moderate income homeowners in the program target area in eliminating building code violations, improving unsafe or unhealthy conditions, improving weatherization, or making other necessary repairs, with assistance from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.

A waiting list currently exists for this assistance. However, funds may be available for homeowners with housing repair emergencies, who are encouraged to fill out the following form and return to the PVPC. ALL information received is strictly confidential and will be maintained in the Springfield office of the PVPC. If you have questions, please contact PVPC's Housing Coordinator Shirley Stephens at (413) 781-6045.

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

Type of improvements needed: _____

For P.V.P.C. use only
Date Received: ____
Staff Initials: _____

My annual household income is not greater than: (circle one according to your household size):

	1 person	2 person	3 person	4 person	5 person	6 person	7 person	8 person
Income	**$45,100**	**$51,550**	**$58,000**	**$64,400**	**$69,600**	**$74,750**	**$79,900**	**$85,050**

Please return to: Shirley Stephens, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 60 Congress Street, 1st Floor, Springfield, MA 01104
Town of Agawam

Noah Max Rasys

May 29, 2013

Parents: Christoper & Katherine Rasys of Ware
Grandparents: Donald & MaryAnn Dunbar of Ware
Michael & Kathleen Rasys of Brimfield

baby's first *Christmas*

Show off the newest member of your family!

On Thursday, December 19th
The Agawam Advertiser News will dedicate
a special section to all babies born in 2013.

Baby's Name: _____

Birthdate: _____

Parents' Names: _____

_____

Parents' Town of Residence: _____

Grandparents' Names & Town of Residence: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Telephone #: (not to be printed - for office use only) _____

Send form with a check or money order for $15. (Scanning and processing fee.)

Make out to: THE AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS
23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030
Be sure to include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you wish the photo to be returned. (Cash is accepted at the office, please DO NOT mail cash.)

Deadline for photos & forms is Friday, Nov. 29th.

Turley Publications, Inc.

www.turley.com

Public Safety

Water main breaks in Feeding Hills

By Jennifer Wroblewski
Staff Writer

AGAWAM — Workers from the Department of Public Works responded to the area of Hamilton Circle near Hamar Drive in Feeding Hills Center Saturday, Nov. 16, for a water main break that cut off water to a dozen homes.

According to Christopher Golba, director of the DPW, the break was "a pretty big one" because the portion affected is fed by a water pumping station.

"When the line broke, the pumps geared up to provide more water, so that made it that much greater of a break," he said.

The Department of Public Works received the call about the break at 4:50 p.m. Saturday and finished working in the area around 1:30 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 17, said Golba.

"It did do quite a bit of damage to the road because it was on the hill," he said. "It washed a section of the road out and part of the road heaved up."

The stretch of roadway will need to be repaired or replaced, he said.

"We have got it backfilled and the area is semi cleaned up," said Golba, adding that the repair work will be done "within the next week or so."

Twelve homes were affected when the six-inch main burst, he said.

Police Log

The Agawam Police Department responded to 278 calls from Nov. 2 to Nov. 18. The department made 10 arrests. Those arrested will appear at a future date in Westfield District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

Thursday, Nov. 14

Serge Nakhabenko, 27, of 242 River Road, Agawam, was arrested on charges of improper storage of large capacity firearm, and improper storage of a firearm.

Friday, Nov. 15

John R. Waltermire, 47, unknown, of Springfield, was arrested on an arrest warrant.

Robert E. Kelley III, 40, of 345 Main St., Plainfield, was arrested on a default warrant for failure to appear.

Cody Michael Soden, 18, of 31 Columbia Drive, Feeding Hills, was arrested on a charge of person under 21 possession of liquor.

A 17-year-old juvenile from Agawam was arrested on a charge of person under 21 possession of liquor.

Nicole Marie Reneris, 20, of 15 Pond View Drive, Granville, was arrested on a charge of person under 21 possession of liquor.

A 17-year-old juvenile from Agawam was arrested on a charge of domestic assault and battery.

Saturday, Nov. 16

Brett Parent, 18, of 65 Forest Ridge Road, West Springfield, was arrested on charges of following too close/state highway; passing violation; negligent operation of a motor vehicle; license not in possession; person under 21 possession of liquor; possession of open container of alcohol in motor vehicle; and operating under the influence of liquor.

Monday, Nov. 18

Luke Delaney, 33, of 18 Smith St., Apt. 4, South Hadey, was arrested on a charge of operating motor vehicle with license suspended.

Keith Patrick Bryant, 37, of 50 Garden St., Agawam, was arrested on charges of operating under the influence of liquor; negligent operation of a motor vehicle; and marked lanes violation.

Fire Log

The Agawam Fire Department responded to 62 EMS calls and 23 fire and emergency response calls for the week of Nov. 12 to Nov. 18.

On Nov. 12 at 12:37 a.m., the department responded to Cardinal Drive for public service.

On Nov. 12 at 6:52 a.m., the department responded to Century Street for alarm system activation, no fire – unintentional.

On Nov. 12 at 5:42 p.m., the department responded to Maple Street for a good intent call.

On Nov. 12 at 8:34 p.m., the department responded to Main Street for smoke detector activation, no fire – unintentional.

On Nov. 13 at 12:14 a.m., the department responded to Regency Park Drive for public service.

On Nov. 14 at 11:55 p.m., the department responded to Regency Park Drive for gasoline or other flammable liquid spill.

On Nov. 15 at 3:58 a.m., the department responded to Cecile Street for carbon monoxide detector activation, no carbon monoxide.

On Nov. 15 at 9:56 a.m., the department was dispatched to Edgewater Road but was canceled en route.

On Nov. 15 at 10:57 a.m., the department responded to Red Fox Drive for carbon monoxide incident.

On Nov. 15 at 7:04 p.m., the department responded to Kensington Street for authorized controlled burning.

On Nov. 16 at 3:57 p.m., the department responded to Sunnyslope Avenue for a person in distress.

On Nov. 16 at 8:36 p.m., the department responded to Route 57 East at Garden Street for forest, woods or wildland fire.

On Nov. 17 at 1:03 a.m., the department responded to High Street for gasoline or other flammable liquid spill.

On Nov. 17 at 9:28 a.m., the department responded to Windermere Drive for special type of incident.

On Nov. 17 at 10:28 a.m., the department responded to Main Street for a lockout.

On Nov. 17 at 11:42 a.m., the department responded to Main Street for overheated motor.

On Nov. 17 at 1:02 p.m., the department responded to Nolan Lane for public service.

On Nov. 17 at 5:25 p.m., the department responded to North Street for alarm system activation, no fire – unintentional.

On Nov. 17 at 7:10 p.m., the department responded to Silver Street for overheated motor.

On Nov. 18 at 1:30 a.m., the department responded to Michelle Lane for smoke detector activation due to malfunction.

On Nov. 18 at 2:06 p.m., the department responded to Wilson Street for unauthorized burning.

On Nov. 18 at 3:18 p.m., the department responded to Lealand Avenue for a lockout.

On Nov. 18 at 3:45 p.m., the department responded to Windermere Drive for outside rubbish fire.

Seniors

Agawam Senior Center

Weekly calendar of events

Monday, Nov. 25: Friends Mohegan Sun Trip; 8 a.m., Weight Training; 8:15 a.m., Yoga; 9:30 a.m., Line Dancing, Painting Club; 11:30 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 1 p.m., Bingo; 4 p.m., Tap Class.

Tuesday, Nov. 26: 9 a.m., Exercise, Knitting Group Meets, Sewing Class; 10 a.m., Pace Chair Exercise; 12:30 p.m., Ladies Billiards, Mah Jongg, Movie ("Annie Get Your Gun"); 1 p.m., Mexican Train Game; 2:30 p.m., Memory Lane Chorus Meets; 4 p.m., COA Meeting; 4:30 p.m., Yoga; 6 p.m., Evening Line Dance; 6:30 p.m., Evening Sewing Class.

Wednesday, Nov. 27: 8 a.m., Weight Training; 8:15 a.m., Yoga; 9:45 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 12:30 p.m., Bridge; 1 p.m., Ballroom Lessons, Scrabble.

Thursday, Nov. 28: Thanksgiving. Senior Center closed.

Friday, Nov. 29: 9:15 a.m., Oil Painting; 11:15 a.m., Yoga; Noon, Canasta; 1 p.m., Pitch, Cribbage.

Lunch menu

Monday, Nov. 25: Pepper steak, au gratin potatoes, peas and carrots, pears.

Tuesday, Nov. 26: Baked chicken marsala, mashed potatoes, California blend vegetables, pudding.

Wednesday, Nov. 27: Beef stew, homemade biscuits, spinach salad, baked good.

Thursday, Nov. 28: Thanksgiving. Senior Center closed.

Friday, Nov. 29: French toast, sausage, cantaloupe, juice, muffins.

Notes from the Music Room

By Darcy Davis

In a follow-up to the Chris Maniscalchi donation of piano music, I would like to make mention of a few more detailed items. Some of the Broadway Show books in the collection are "The Lions King," "Fiddler on the Roof," "Cabaret," "Phantom of the Opera," "Chorus Line," "Annie," "Damn Yankees," "West Side Story," "Sound of Music," "Camelot" and "Hello Dolly."

Classical piano music included "Eighteenth Century Drawing Room," "Grand Canyone Suite," "Three Shades of Blue," "Theme from Love Story," "Summer of 42," "Slaughter on Tenth Avenue," "The Student Prince," "Saber Dance," "Nola," "In a Persion Market," "Holiday for Strings" and "Ebb Tide."

There is a lot more to the collection and it is presently kept in the top shelf of a bookcase in the corner of the room opposite the entrance.

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Families

Art displays at Agawam Public Library

The Friends of the Agawam Public Library's 5th Open Juried Art Show is on display now through Nov. 29 at the library. Of the 104 entries, 89 works were accepted. This regional show is represented by artists from 31 towns and cities in Massachusetts and Connecticut.

The show is available for viewing during normal library hours. For more information, call the library at (413) 789-1550.

The Friends of the Agawam Public Library is a nonprofit, 501 c(3) tax-exempt organization whose mission is to support the town library by providing fundraisers, workshops and educational activities, and volunteer services and is not connected to any local, state, or federal government agency.

***

The Agawam Public Library will display Joseph P. Ryan's collection of memorabilia of President John F. Kennedy during November. This exhibit is in memory of the 50th anniversary of the president's death.

Some of the items in the exhibit include a memorial plate of President and Mrs. Kennedy, several hardcover books, a display case of JFK half dollars, a magazine from the Saturday Evening Post with a Norman Rockwell portrait, a JFK coloring book, three pins from the 1960 election, first day of issue program of the 13 cents stamp of President John F. Kennedy, Brookline, Mass. and miscellaneous publications.

Ryan was born and raised in Springfield. He graduated from Technical High School and served in the Army National Guard. He moved to Agawam in 1962 and married Janice Dumond. They have four children. Joseph spent his career working as a tool and die maker, and retired from Pratt and Whitney in East Hartford, Conn. after 42 years. Upon his retirement, he joined the Lower Pioneer Stamp Club and since that time, has been collecting stamps, First-Day covers, coins, and other memorabilia of President John F. Kennedy.

AHS Class of '98 to hold reunion

The Agawam High School class of 1998 will hold its 15-year reunion Friday, Nov. 29 at Take Five Restaurant & Lounge, 944 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. Cocktail hour begins at 7:30 p.m., with music, raffles and other events to follow.

Tickets will be $25 at the door, or $20 if purchased before the event via PayPal. (Send to classof1998AHS@gmail.com, and include your name in the message area.) There will be a cash bar, but bar food is included in the ticket price.

For more information, search for the "Agawam High School c/o 1998 Reunion" group on Facebook, email the above address, or call Jon Couture at (413) 575-9832.

Holiday concert to benefit area residents, communities

Richie and Kathy Mitnick and The Sounds of Music Singers will present the 25th Annual Holiday Concert sponsored by the Rotary Club of Agawam, Thursday, Dec. 12 at Agawam High School. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Admission is $3 per person plus two canned goods.

All funds and canned goods are donated through the Agawam Rotary Club to provide area residents and communities a brighter holiday season.

The public is invited to join master of ceremonies Brad Shepard along with Jessie Rivers, Peter Annone, Conni Lind, Judy Brinn, Sally Jo Stevens and Angie Florian along with Donna Kennedy and surprise guests.

K of C to host breakfast with Santa

The Knights of Columbus will host a breakfast with Santa Sunday, Dec. 1 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the St. John's Parish Center, 833 Main St., Agawam. Cost for tickets is $7 per person and free for children 12 and under.

For more information, call Bill at (413) 789-0540.

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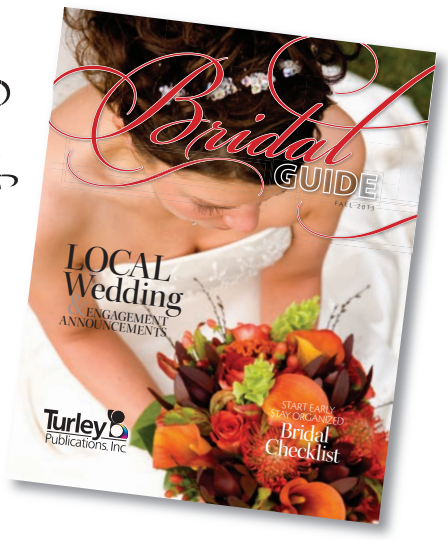

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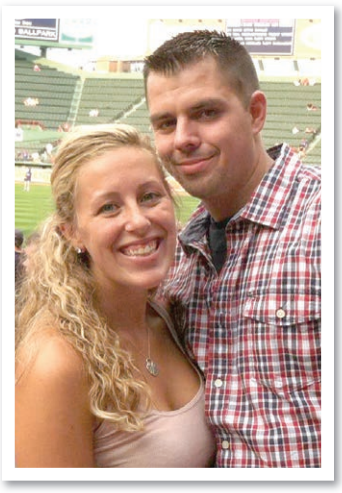
If you would like your photos returned please include a self-addressed stamped envelope.
Photo must be received by December 5, 2013.



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Name of Groom: _____

Groom's Residence: _____

Date of Wedding: _____

Date of Wedding:
June 8, 2013

In the Classroom

MIGHTY MECHANICS KICK OFF FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

Turley Publications courtesy photo

Agawam AREA robotics clubs will host another ziti fundraising dinner Jan. 24 after the groups' first fundraiser of the season saw overwhelming support from the community.

FIRST Robotics Tech Challenge Team 839, the "Mighty Mechanics" based in Agawam, combined forces with the other Agawam AREA robotics clubs and kicked off its fundraising campaign Nov. 1 with a ziti dinner fundraiser. Proceeds go to help the AREA students attend the 2014 FIRST Robotics Competition. Beginning this winter, the competitions will continue through spring in various locations throughout Massachusetts, the Northeast and culminating in the world championships in St. Louis, Mo.

"Over 300 diners enjoyed the ziti, meatballs, salads, and desserts, and we all had a great time meeting new people, including friends, family, and town and state officials," said Jay Cameron, head coach for Mighty Mechanics. "The donations collected are for the teams' registration and regional competition travel expenses, as well as for parts, raw materials, and equipment needs to make the robots compete."

While originally co-founded in Agawam by Dana Henry and John Burns, FIRST Robotics consists of volunteer parents. Their goal is to help kids as early as second grade start learning about building, creating, inventing and manufacturing through the themed club robotics activities. These students gain considerable experience, as they return year-after-year, helping them to learn beneficial career knowledge. While focused more on manufacturing, these clubs also explore many other areas including marketing, public speaking and presentation skills, critical decision making, computer programming skills, and much more, all attributable to use in jobs they could pursue.

The team will host its next ziti dinner fundraiser Friday, Jan. 24 at the Agawam Congregational Church. The Mighty Mechanics marketing team is accepting donations from area businesses, educators and parents. These monies further continue efforts to help these and more Agawam students focus their attention toward STEM and explore manufacturing based careers.

For more information about the team, its progress, or to make a donation, visit www.ftc.agawamrobotics.org or email ftccoach@agawamrobotics.org.

Winter Arts Festival Dec. 4

The Agawam High School Winter Arts Festival will take place Wednesday, Dec. 4 from 6-9 p.m. and will feature an evening of artwork and choral groups from AHS art and music students.

The public is invited to come celebrate the arts.

For more information, call AHS at (413) 821-0530.

Agawam Schools' weekly lunch menu

AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL

The Agawam High School lunch menu is posted on the school's website.

AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Monday, Nov. 25: Baked chicken nuggets with dipping sauce, mashed potatoes, peas, fresh and chilled fruit.

Tuesday, Nov. 26: Manager's choice.

Wednesday, Nov. 27: Half day. No lunch service.

Thursday, Nov. 28-Friday, Nov. 29: Thanksgiving recess.

ROBERTA G. DOERING SCHOOL

Monday, Nov. 25: Baked chicken nuggets with dipping sauce, mashed potatoes, peas, fresh and chilled fruit.

Tuesday, Nov. 26: Manager's choice.

Wednesday, Nov. 27: Half day. No lunch service.

Thursday, Nov. 28-Friday, Nov. 29: Thanksgiving recess.

AGAWAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Monday, Nov. 25: Baked chicken nuggets with dipping sauce, mashed potatoes, peas, fresh and chilled fruit.

Tuesday, Nov. 26: Manager's choice.

Wednesday, Nov. 27: Half day. No lunch service.

Thursday, Nov. 28-Friday, Nov. 29: Thanksgiving recess.

Holyoke Catholic to offer entrance exam

CHICOPEE - Holyoke Catholic High School will administer an entrance exam for prospective ninth grade students Saturday, Dec. 7 from 8 to 11:15 a.m. at the school on Springfield Street in Chicopee.

Any student interested in enrolling in the freshman class for the 2014-2015 academic year is required to take the exam. Pre-registration is recommended and there is a $25 test fee. Applications may be obtained by calling Theresa Zaborowski, admissions director, at (413) 331-2480, ext. 1132 or by logging on to the admissions page at www.HolyokeCatholicHigh.org to download a form.

Walk-ins are welcome the day of the exam but are asked to arrive early to complete the application form. Need-based financial assistance is available to families who qualify.

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SPORTS

Warriors overpower Agawam in finals

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – It was not the ending the Agawam High School football team was hoping for.

The Brownies were defeated for the first time in 2013 when they found their offense shut out 20-0 last Friday night at Wahconah Regional High School in the Western Massachusetts Division 4 championship game.

The Brownies went a perfect 8-0 during the regular season, then won a rematch with Northampton in the semifinals. Against the Blue Devils, Agawam had to come from behind to win.

This time, there was no coming back for the Brownies.

Agawam's defense performed as well as they could, but were not a match for the running game of Ethan Wells and Ryan Washburn. Eli Pease also had an excellent game on the ground for the Warriors.

Agawam chose to receive, playing on the road in the championship game, and punted away their first two possessions of the ball.

Wahconah would score their only touchdown of the first half

Please see FINALS, page 13

Turley Publications photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Agawam captains participate in the coin toss before the championship game against Wahconah.

Brownies set for annual Turkey Day matchup

Chance to shine at home one more time

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – After a great championship run that saw Agawam go from a three-win season last year to the Division 4 championship game this year, the Brownies have just one challenge left on their list for the season.

The Brownies will lock horns with West Springfield on Thanksgiving morning next Thursday for the annual matchup between the two rival schools.

The Brownies and Terriers have one of the most storied Thanksgiving rivalries in the history of Western Massachusetts high school football. Only Westfield-Cathedral and Holyoke-Chicopee have bigger rivalries.

Agawam had been on the unfortunate end of the rivalry for a few years, including a tough 17-14 loss two years ago. In that game, Agawam had a 14-0 lead before West Springfield, a team that was heading for the playoff in 2011, came back to tie the score, and then made a rare field goal to win the game with seconds remaining.

Please see MATCHUP, page 13

FILE PHOTO

Agawam quarterback Michael Vecchiarelli (12) looks for an open teammate to make a pass.

Rackliffe named MASCAC top rookie

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – Former Agawam High School volleyball and basketball standout Alycia Rackliffe had an excellent season playing through an injury.

She received the 2013 Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) Women's Volleyball Rookie of the Year Award.

Rackliffe is a freshman outside hitter for the Framingham State College. She was named to the All-Conference team this year. She was Player of the Week three times and Rookie of the Week six times. She made 353 kills this year and averaged 3.33 kills per set. She had a .338 hitting percentage to lead the conference. She had 40 service aces and 72 blocks, 44 of them solo.

"It was really nice to be rec-

See RACKLIFFE, page 14

Turley Publications photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Alycia Rackliffe hopes to be back on the basketball court in January following surgery to repair a torn meniscus.

FINALS, from page 12

when they were facing a third down and 13 yards to go situation. Wells would throw an incomplete pass, bringing up fourth down. From the Agawam 16-yard line, Wells was able to pass to Washburn. Washburn slanted up the middle and caught the ball in the end zone for the touchdown.

The Warriors failed to pick up a conversion and led 6-0 early in the second quarter.

Agawam turned over the ball on downs on their next possession. The Brownies managed to get the ball back with 1:16 left in the first half, but could not make anything happen before halftime.

Wahconah received the ball to open the second half and got a great return to start the half. A couple of plays later, Wells made a 31-yard run into the end zone to make it 12-0 with 10:00 remaining in the third quarter.

Agawam got a good return on the next kickoff and started at their own 47-yard line. Agawam quarterback Mike Vecchiarelli would suffer a tough sack, and left the game with what was reported as a shoulder injury. Gio Russo would make a 60-yard reception and put Agawam deep in Wahconah's end. But on fourth down, Agawam failed to convert, and turned over the ball.

Wahconah would score again with 7:02 left in the fourth quarter. Wells made a short run to the left side to score the touchdown. They put an exclamation point on the score with a successful conversion.

Agawam would get the ball back again, trailing by three scores, and Wahconah made an interception that effectively ended Agawam's championship hopes.

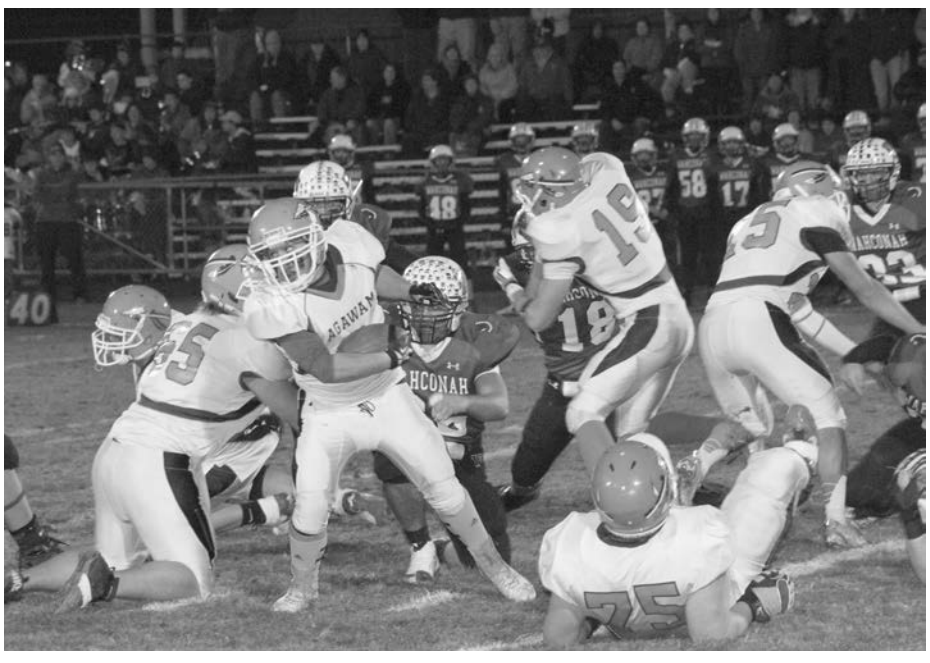
Vecchiarelli had a tough night, going 1-for-10 passing for 46 yards. After Vecchiarelli left with an injury, Tom Cabbibo took over and went 4-for-10 for 61 yards. Comee was limited to just 43 yards on the ground.

Agawam's championship runs ends at 9-1.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.

Anthony Carrociola dives in after making a return for the Brownies.

Josh Flynn makes a punt for Agawam in the first quarter.



Turley Publications photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Gio Russo tries to move around the Wahconah defense for a run.

MATCHUP, from page 12

Last year, the two teams gathered at the newly renovated Clark Field, which now has an artificial surface. In the first Thanksgiving game on the new field, Agawam's Mike Vecchiarelli put on a huge show.

He would go 11-for-23 for 232 yards passing. He made four touchdown passes and Agawam had a 36-22 lead at halftime.

Agawam trailed early in the game before scoring four times in the second quarter to take the lead. They never looked back.

A senior last year, Troy Tanner had a career game with three touchdowns, including one from an interception he turned 86 yards for a score.

Since that Thanksgiving victory, which was only Agawam's third of the season despite having the best passing quarterback in Western Mass. last year, the Brownies have completely turned their course around.

Playing in the Suburban League this season, the Brownies would go a perfect 8-0. But they did not face the Terriers as West Springfield switched league to the AA Conference. The league switch preserved the independent matchup the two teams had each year.

Some Thanksgiving games have been ruined by the new playoff format.

Agawam and West Springfield, however, have their own rivalry that will go on no matter what the playoff format. It is highlighted by a gathering between the captains of the football team being brought together by the Agawam Rotary Club two days before the game, and a great crowd that comes out on the holiday.

This year's game will be played at Agawam's Harmon A. Smith Field. Kickoff is at 10 a.m. West Springfield had a tough start to their season and did not qualify for the tournament. However, they have reached the .500 mark at 5-5.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli#@turley.com.

Agawam's Steve Comee (25) tries to break off a big run.

Troy Tanner and two other Agawam defenders make a tackle.

File photos

Agawam's Gio Russo makes a carry for the Brownies.

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Brownies compete at Western Mass Championships

By Dave Forbes
Turley Publications Sports Staff Writer

NORTHFIELD - The Agawam girls and boys cross country teams took part in the Western Massachusetts Championships at Northfield Mountain earlier this month.

Senior Gina Lopez had the best time for the girls as she finished 22nd and completed the course in a time of 22 minutes, 5 seconds.

Junior teammate Haley Piotrowski was the second member of the Lady Brownies to cross the finish line as she came in 45th at 23:08, followed by sophomore Kianna Eaton in 54th at 23:38, junior Rosie Robideaux in 81st at 25:11, senior Gabbie Mirolli in 83rd at 25:14, freshman Lauren Lopez in 116th at 28:56 and senior Becca McKiernan in 124th at 32:03.

Agawam finished in 10th as a team with 285 points.

On the boys side, junior Mario Tedeschi was the top finisher for the Brownies as he placed 68th with a time of 19:19.

Senior Chad Joyal was second on the team as he came in 73rd at 19:23, followed by junior Cam Czerpak in 85th at 19:51, senior Patrick Rieker in 86th at 19:52, sophomore Bobby Johnston in 102nd at 20:37, junior Clement Hagenimana in 104th at 20:44, and junior Dylan Marshall in 106th at 20:53.

Agawam finished 15th as a team with 414 points.

Dave Forbes is the sports editor for Turley Publications. He can be reached at dforbes@turley.com or by calling 413-967-3505 ext. 106.

RACKLIFFE, from page 12

ognized," said Rackliffe. "But it was not a celebrated moment because my knee was swollen."

She said the award was made possible by her teammates.

"Rookie of the Year may be an individual award, but without my team's hard work and unselfishness it would have never happened," she said.

Rackliffe hurt her knee two weeks prior to the preseason while playing locally.

"Someone came under the net and rolled into my legs," said Rackliffe.

The knee started to swell when practices started at Framingham. After some ice and other treatment, Rackliffe began to feel better. But it started to swell again during the playoffs.

"It turned out to be a meniscus tear," said Rackliffe.

She will have arthroscopic surgery to clean up the issue. She says the surgery will be minor and she hopes to be on the basketball court sometime in January.

Rackliffe was one of Agawam's top players in both volleyball and basketball for the past four years. She is planning to play both sports at Framingham, but will have to wait to get on the basketball court this winter.

Rackliffe is attending the school to major in Food and Nutrition. Her goal is to become a registered dietician.

She says she hopes to continue getting better during the next three years of volleyball.

"My goal is the same every year," said Rackliffe. "I want to get better than I was the year before. Whatever happens after that is not in my control."

Rackliffe plays outside hitter on the right side for Framingham. She says her high school experience with the Brownies helped prepare her for whatever was asked of her in college.

"I enjoyed learning each of the positions because I knew it would help me become a diverse player," said Rackliffe.

Rackliffe says she hopes to stay healthy moving forward and wants to see her team get farther in the playoffs next season.

COLLEGE NEWS

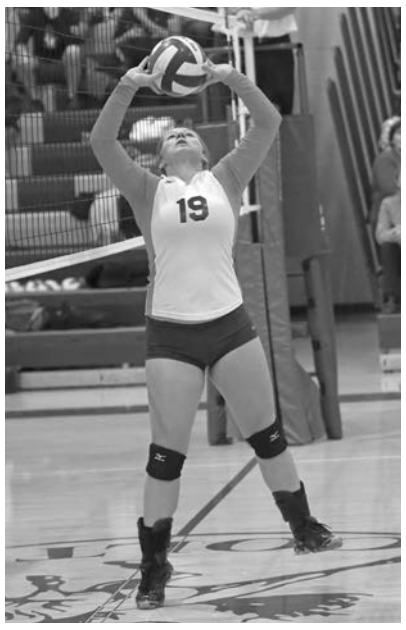
Parzich named MASCAC Men's Cross Country Rookie of the Week

WESTFIELD - Westfield State freshman and Agawam resident Ben Parzich has been named the MASCAC Men's Cross Country Rookie of the Week.

He placed 96th at the NCAA Division 3 New England Regionals with a time of 26 minutes, 38.40 seconds over the 8K layout.

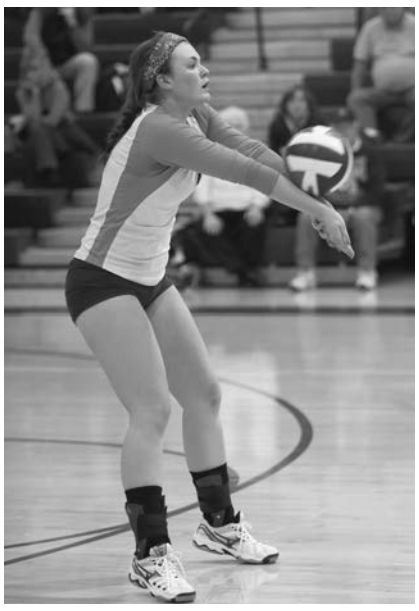
A LOOK BACK AT VOLLEYBALL SEASON

AGAWAM - The Agawam girls volleyball team had an excellent season as they qualified for the Western Massachusetts Division 2 Tournament.

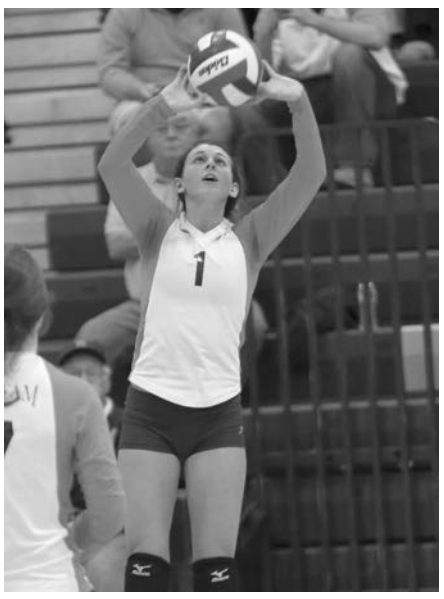


Agawam's Lexi Cears (19) sets the ball up for a teammate.

Amanda Ehresman (16) gets to the ball in front of a teammate.



Mary-Kate Reidy (9) reaches out to hit a bump shot.



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Danielle Stratton (1) hits a two-handed set shot.

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Obituaries & Church News

DEATH NOTICES & SERVICES

Andras, Marjorie M.
Died Nov. 15, 2013
Funeral Nov. 19, 2013
Colonial Forastiere
Funeral Home

Cetti, John P.
Died Nov. 10, 2013
Private Funeral
Colonial Forastiere
Funeral Home

Collier, Eileen C.
Died Nov. 16, 2013
Funeral Nov. 19, 2013
Colonial Forastiere
Funeral Home

Morin, Raymond P.
Died Nov. 14, 2013
Funeral Nov. 21, 2013
West Springfield
Curran–Jones
Funeral Home

Ochenkowski, Walter E.
Died Nov. 11, 2013
Funeral Nov. 14, 2013
Agawam Funeral
Home

Ott, Jacqueline A.
Died Nov. 12, 2013
Funeral Nov. 16, 2013
Agawam Funeral
Home

Plante, Edward R.
Died Nov. 13, 2013
Funeral Nov. 18, 2013
Colonial Forastiere
Funeral Home

St. John, Eileen P.
Died Nov. 10, 2013
Funeral Nov. 15, 2013
Colonial Forastiere
Funeral Home

Raymond P. Morin Sr. 1944 – 2013

AGAWAM – Raymond P. Morin Sr., 69, of Poplar Street, died Thursday, Nov. 14, 2013 at home. Ray was born in Haverhill, grew up in West Springfield, and lived in Westfield before moving to Agawam 22 years ago. He was a retired auto body worker for Guiles Auto Body in Southwick and a member of the American Legion in Southwick. His wife Lea (Dutilly) Morin died in 2009. He leaves two children, Raymond Morin Jr. of Palmer and Paula TIngley, of Feeding Hills; a brother, Roger of West Springfield; a sister, Sandra Key of Kentucky; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. The funeral was held Thursday, Nov. 21 at the West Springfield Curran-Jones Funeral Home with a private burial in St. Thomas Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 417005, Boston, MA 02241.

Agawam Advertiser News Obituary Policy

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.
One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.
The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing $50, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.
Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Clergy to host annual Thanksgiving service

The public is invited to join the Agawam clergy that will host the Annual Community Thanksgiving Service to be held Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, Nov. 27 at Bethany Assembly of God on Main Street in Agawam.

The service will begin at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary, with various local clergy participating. The Rev. Tim Reed and the Rev. Richard Adams, pastors of Bethany Assembly of God, will host the service and offer the opening prayer and offering. Mayor Richard A. Cohen will read the Thanksgiving Proclamation.

Thanksgiving messages will be delivered by Pastor Earl E. Eisenbach, of the Agawam Congregational Church, and Fr. Tomasz Parzynski, of St. John the Evangelist Church. A prayer for our nation and world will be offered by Pastor Bill Pass, of the Church of Redemption. Special offertory music will be played by Teddy Dobek on saxophone, from the Church of Redemption. Pastor Reed will offer the Benediction.

The Bethany Worship Team will lead the gathering in worship with fellowship time in the gymnasium after the service. The offering will go toward the Phil Coburn Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner to be held at St. Thomas School in West Springfield, Thursday, Nov. 28 from noon to 4 p.m. The public is welcome. Agawam residents may have dinners delivered by calling the Agawam Senior Center at 821-0604 or 821-0605.

Participating churches for this year's service are Agawam Congregational Church, Bethany Assembly of God, St. John the Evangelist Church, and the Church of Redemption.

Free medical clinic at Bethany

A New Covenant Free Clinic is being cosponsored by New Covenant Community Services and Bethany Assembly of God on Tuesday, Dec. 3, from 6-8 p.m. The clinic will provide non-emergent care for people age 18 and over.

The free clinic is intended to help individuals that may be facing difficult financial times receive the care they so desperately need. Residents of Massachusetts and Connecticut that find themselves needing medical care but cannot afford a visit to the doctor are invited to attend.

The staff of licensed medical care workers volunteer their time and skills, and no revenue will be collected for the services provided. The entire team is committed to providing quality care on all levels. A visit to the clinic will include a demographic check-in, medical assessment, and spiritual encouragement. The free clinic operates once a month at Bethany Assembly of God, 580 Main St., Agawam. All medical records will be kept in strict confidence.

For more information, call the clinic at (413) 363-0098 and leave a message. Your call will be returned.

Upcoming events at Sacred Heart Church

Advent Reflections

The public is invited to Sacred Heart Church in Feeding Hills Sunday, Dec. 1, 8, 15 and 22 from 4-5 p.m. for reflections on "Images of Mary: Our Lady of Fatima with Fr. James Longe, Our Lady of Guadalupe with Fr. Sean O'Mannion, Our Lady of Medugorje with Deacon John Leary, and our Lady of Czestochowa with Jean Raczkowski." Each hour will end with Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction followed by refreshments in the parish center. There is no charge for the presentations. All are welcome.

Addiction Education at Sacred Heart

The church will host a three-session workshop exploring the nature of addiction and the process of recovery. Sessions one and two will explore the bio-psych-social-spiritual aspects of addiction and recovery. Session three will explore the role of family and friends in the recovery process.

The three sessions will be facilitated by Rev. Mark S. Stelzer, a member of the faculty of the College of Our Lady of the Elms. He also does educational outreach on a regular basis for Guest House, Inc., which specializes in the treatment of clergy and religious in recovery from addiction.

The sessions will run Tuesday, December 3, 10 and 17 from 7-9 p.m. at Parish Center located at 1061 Springfield St., in Feeding Hills. There is no charge for the evenings; a free will offering will be appreciated. Light refreshments will be served. All are welcome to attend.

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For more information on both programs, call Jean Raczkowski at 786-8200 ext. 3.

Tickets available for LaSalette Shrine trip

St. Martha's Guild of Sacred Heart Parish in Feeding Hills will host a trip to the LaSalette Shrine of Attleboro Sunday, Dec. 8. A stop will be made for lunch on the way at Wright's Chicken Farm in Rhode Island. The evening meal will be available for purchase in the cafeteria at LaSalette.

The cost is $50 per person and includes the bus, lunch and the driver's tip. The bus will leave Sacred Heart Church at 10 a.m. with a noon arrival at Wright's Farm for lunch. The bus will depart the restaurant between 1:30-2 p.m. and will arrive at LaSalette Shrine between 2-2:30 p.m.

A concert by Fr. Pat will take place at 3 p.m. in the church with lights turned on at 5 p.m. The bus will depart at 7:30 p.m. with a 9:30 p.m. arrival at Sacred Heart.

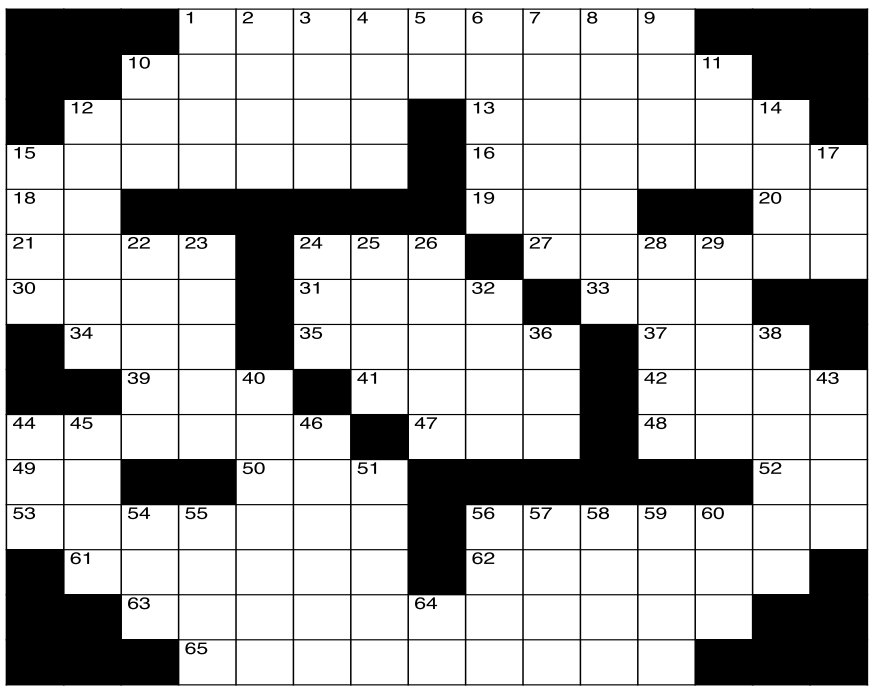
For more information or to purchase tickets, call the church office at 786-8200.

Thanksgiving at First Congregational UCC

WEST SPRINGFIELD - The Sunday, Nov. 24 service at First Church will be devoted to giving thanks to God through songs of praise, prayers of thanksgiving, and fellowship with one another. Members of the congregation are encouraged to respond by sharing gifts with others.

First Church M&M Kids have created a stockpot turkey which they challenge members, friends, and neighbors of the church to fill with food again this Sunday. Donated items are delivered each week to the Parish Cupboard Food Pantry. In addition, the Mission and Social Action Team is seeking donations of personal care items and warm hats, gloves, and socks for homeless adults. These will be used to fill bags that will be distributed at the West Springfield Parish Association Outreach meals in December.

First Congregational UCC is at 20 Lathrop St. in West Springfield. Sunday worship is at 10 a.m., with nursery care and children's activities provided. Following worship this Sunday, members and friends will be invited to help with "Hanging of the Greens," preparing the worship space for Advent services which begin Dec. 1.



CLUES ACROSS
1. Bawled out
10. Former "Today" host
12. Shape anew
13. Skulls
15. Renting dwellers
16. Choose to refrain
18. Anno Domini
19. Old French small coin
20. Carry out
21. Dashes
24. Expresses suspicion
27. Followed the trail of
30. The highest point of something
31. Geological times
33. Cartilaginous structure
34. Hill (Celtic)
35. Bura
37. Center of a wheel
39. __ de plume
41. String, lima or green
42. Greek goddess of discord
44. Move back and forth
47. Britain's Sandhurst (abbr.)
48. Comedian Carvey
49. Public promotion
50. Federal residential mortgage insurer
52. Location of White House
53. Gives an answer
56. Populates
61. Fires a weapon
62. More tense
63. An outstanding achievement
65. Annotations

CLUES DOWN
1. Buddhist monk of Tibet
2. Egyptian sun god
3. Soft roe
4. Garden planting areas
5. Atomic #89
6. Soul and calypso songs
7. Large European flatfish
8. Expunction
9. Impression in a surface
10. PBS filmmaker Burns
11. Former OSS
12. Draft an edict
14. Assistant
15. Proclamation upon finishing
17. Slight head bend
22. Asian ethnic hill people
23. SE Asian goat antelope
24. Aware of the latest trends
25. Person of Arabia
26. Industrial process to produce ammonia
28. Expressed pleasure
29. The plural of crus
32. Old Thailand
36. Riboneucleic acid
38. One who assembles books
40. Cosa Nostra member
43. Pouchlike structures
44. Violent action
45. ___ of March
46. Slum area of a city
51. Valuable, useful possession
54. Philemon (Biblical abbr.)
55. Shaped bread
56. Fruits of the gourd family
57. Copyread
58. Double curve
59. Photographs (slang)
60. Side sheltered from the wind
64. Atomic #86

Answers on page 7

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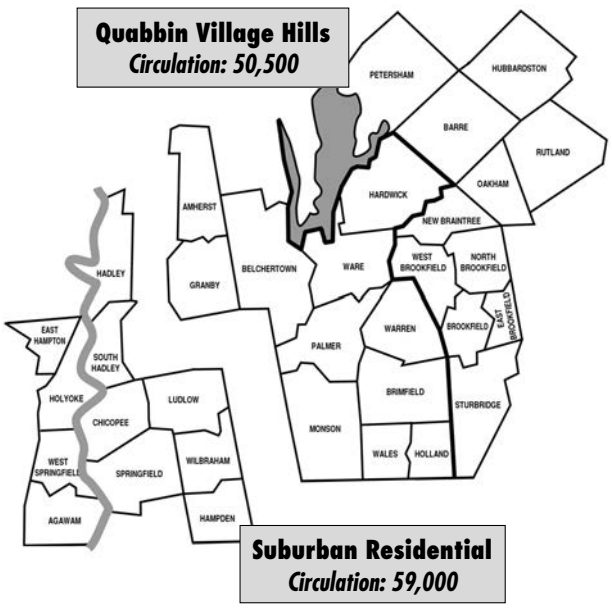

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NEW - WEST BROOKFIELD: Charming home in downtown village, seller had vision when updating this home, many details like outdoor patio w/FP, pellet stoves warm the home nicely. $169,900

NEW - WEST BROOKFIELD: Farmhouse charm with recent updates and hilltop views. Three bedrooms, two baths, major updates include roof, septic, new bath. Come see. $219,900

NEW - WARE: Three bedroom end unit Condo in Warebrook Village, 1,356 sf and recent updates make this home a good value at $85,000

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1986 CHEVY CAPRICE, Maroon metallic, very well maintained, excellent condition, 49,000 original miles. $3,500 **(413)583-8248.**

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Out & About

OUR CALENDAR SECTION is intended to promote "free" events, or those that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization. Paid events that are not deemed benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. The deadline to submit calendar items is Monday at noon. Send to the Agawam Advertiser News at aan@turley.com, fax to 786-8457, or mail to 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. We usually print at least one week prior to an event. The listings should be brief with only time, date, location, activity explanation and contact information.

Saturday, Nov. 23

A JINGLE VALLEY FAIR will be held at the First Baptist Church, 760 Main St., Agawam, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and will feature handmade gifts, Christmas decorations, candy and desserts and available for take-out, baked beans and potato salad, which sell-out every year.

THE WEST SPRINGFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, located at 800 Amostown Road, will host its annual Fall Vendor/Craft Fair and Pie Sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The church is handicapped accessible and there is plenty of free parking. For more information, call 788-0304.

THE HOLYOKE MERRY-GO-ROUND is open Saturdays and Sundays, noon to 4 p.m. Rides are just $2 per person/per ride with several specials available. For more information, call (413) 538-9838 or visit www.holyokemerrygoround,org.

Sunday, Nov. 24

THE MT. HOLYOKE COLLEGE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA will perform as part of Experience Music at United, Sunday, Nov. 24 at 4 p.m. at the Skinner Memorial Chapel of United Congregational Church of Holyoke, located at the corner of Appleton and Mapleton streets in Holyoke. Suggested donation, $10; $5 for students and seniors.

THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS will host a "mini tour" at 1 p.m., led by Ann Dansereau, George Walter Vincent Smith Art Museum, highlighting "Tiffany Windows: Creation to Installation." The tour is free with museum admission and secure, free onsite parking is available.

Tuesday, Nov. 26

THE AGAWAM SENIOR CENTER will host a free movie ("Annie Get Your Gun") at 12:30 p.m. The public is welcome.

ADULT DROP-IN SIT AND KNIT meets every Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library. No registration is necessary.

ADULT DROP-IN YOGA at the library will take place at 7 p.m. Anyone 18 and older is welcome; bring a yoga mat. No registration is necessary. For more information on Second Wind Yoga, visit www.secondwindyoga.com.

Thursday, Nov. 28

THE AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH FAMILY PLAYGROUP, which takes place at the church at 745 Main St., Agawam, is open to children birth through age 5 with a parent or caregiver, meets weekly on Thursdays from 9:30 to 11 a.m. It includes crafts, stories, songs, free play and more. For more information, call 786-7111 or email jbrownacc@verizon.net.

UPCOMING AND ONGOING

THE HOLYOKE MERRY-GO-ROUND will be open Friday, Nov. 29 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. with rides just $2 per person For more information, call (413) 538-9838 or visit www.holyokemerrygoround.org.

A CARD, COIN AND MEMORABILIA SHOW will be held Sunday, Dec. 1 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Chicopee Boys and Girls Club, 580 Meadow St. Admission is $1; kids under 10 are free. There will be over 40 tables, a door prize drawing every 30 minutes, and the club is handicap accessible. For more information, call (413) 593-6046.

THE AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL will host a Washington, CD Club Holiday Fundraiser Tuesday, Dec. 3 from 6 to 9 p.m. in the school's cafeteria. The evening's events will include over 20 vendors and crafters, drinks, a bake sale, items for sale and raffle tickets.
The public is invited.

FITNESS FIRST HEALTH & FITNESS CENTER, 60 North Westfield St., Feeding Hills, will host a blood drive sponsored by Mercy Medical Center, Wednesday, Dec. 4 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. A driver's license with photo or state identification with photo is required to donate blood. All donors should eat at least two to three hours prior to donating, weigh at least 110 pounds and must be 18 years or older. To make an appointment, call (413) 786-1460.

RED DOOR THEATRE PRESENTS...

Turley Publications courtesy photo

"The Princess and the Frog" featuring Stephanie Hoag, of Agawam, and Ben Rodriguez, of Springfield, was recently presented by the Red Door Theatre's Tiny Tots Theatre.

"A Christmas Surprise" makes its way to the Red Door Theatre when Tiny Tales Theatre presents its audience-participatory play for the young child. The children's theatre troupe will perform Saturday, Nov. 30 at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

The play, written by Jaime Pearsons, of Agawam, tells the story of Santa's elves that are planning a surprise party for Mr. and Mrs. Claus. It seems that the North Pole troublemaker Jackie Frost has other ideas and plots mischief when she doesn't get invited to the festivities. The lively play uses children from the audience to dress up and come on stage as elves, reindeer, gingerbread people and North Pole bakers to help solve the problem and save the day (and maybe even Christmas.

They perform with veteran actors Pearsons and father Lyle, Marilene Allen, Stephanie Hoag, Lauren Dougherty and Claire Seaver, all of Agawam, Megan Banks of West Springfield, and Ben Rodriguez, Mitch and Jean Czerpak, of Springfield.

The $5 play price includes a complimentary photo op with Santa in his workshop, so audience members are encouraged to bring their cameras. For reservations, call (413) 789-2026 or for more information on this and other Kit and Kaboodle productions, visit wwwreddoortheatre.com.

A 'NOONTIME CONCERT' will take place Wednesday, Dec. 4 at at South Congregational Church, 45 Maple St., Springfield featuring Kate Chadbourne, Celtic harpist and storyteller. Free will donation. For information, call 413-732-0117 or email lpicard@sococh.org.

THE AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL WINTER ARTS FESTIVAL will take place Wednesday, Dec. 4 from 6-9 p.m. and will feature an evening of artwork and choral groups from AHS art and music students. The public is invited to come celebrate the arts. For more information, call AHS at (413) 821-0530.

THE AGAWAM CULTURAL COUNCIL'S APPLAUSE SERIES continues Friday, Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. with a holiday music program featuring Judy Handler and Mark Levesque at the Agawam Senior Center. This is free and open to the public.

THE PAWZAAR HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR to benefit local homeless animals will be held Dec. 7 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Chicopee Family Moose Center on Fuller Road in Chicopee. For more information, contact Melinda Thomas at Thomas J. O'Connor Foundation, (413) 533-4817 or mthomas@tjofoundation.org.

THE CHRISTMAS ON THE GREEN ANNUAL HOLIDAY FAIR takes place Saturday, Dec. 7 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at First Church in Longmeadow. In addition to toys and games for all ages, offerings will include culinary treats, jewelry, personalized ornaments, vintage home goods, the book nook, hand-crafted wreaths, and the Christmas Shoppe. Lunch is available from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. with Santa stopping by from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The public is invited.

THE ELM-BELCHER MASONIC LODGE, 53 River St., Agawam offers an all-you-can-eat spaghetti supper Wednesday, Dec. 11 at a cost of $7 for adults, $4 for children. The public is welcome.

THE SPRINGFIELD ARMORY NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE welcomes the public to the Commanding Officer's House again this Christmas season. The program begins at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14 in the Museum Theater and continues in the Commanding Officer's House on the grounds of the National Historic Site. Admission is free. For information, call 413-734-8551 or visit www.nps.gov/spar.

WEDDING AND EVENT PLANNER